

M 18.07.00  
20CLAIMS

1. A flexible laminated sheet material comprising an air-permeable first layer, a second layer being substantially air-impermeable but having a controlled air permeability at a selected part of the second layer, the second layer being laminated to one face of the first layer, and a third layer laminated to the face of the first layer opposite that carrying the second layer, the third layer being air-impermeable and the first layer being permeable to air in a direction parallel to the surface of the sheet material and in a direction extending transversely to the surface of the sheet material to enable a desired air flow through the first layer for discharge through said selected parts of the second layer.
2. A sheet material according to Claim 1 wherein the second layer is of uniform thickness.
3. A sheet material according to Claim 2 wherein the second layer comprises an air-impermeable material having a set of perforations therethrough at the selected part.
4. A sheet material according to claim 3 wherein all the perforations are to the range of 0.1 mm to 1.6 mm in diameter, preferably 0.6 mm to 1.2 mm.
5. A sheet material according to any of Claims 1 to 4 wherein the first layer is a textile fabric.
6. A sheet material according to Claims 3, 4 or 5 wherein the second layer is a polyurethane composition.

18.07.00

7. A sheet material according to Claim 3 wherein the selected part comprises a first region and a second region and wherein the perforations are of different dimensions in the first region from those in the second region.
8. A sheet material according to Claim 6 wherein the perforations in the first region are larger than those in the second region.
9. A sheet material according to Claim 8 wherein the perforations in the first and second region each have a diameter between 0.1 mm and 1.6 mm.
10. A sheet material according to Claim 9 wherein the first region extends lengthwise along a central part of the sheet material and the second region extends lengthwise at either side of the central part.
11. A sheet material according to any preceding claim wherein the third layer is a polyurethane composition.
12. A sheet material according to any preceding claim wherein one or more longitudinally extending ducts are provided between the second and third layers for ducting air under pressure to the first layer.
13. A sheet material according to any of Claims 1 to 11 comprising one or more openings in the second layer through which air under pressure can be supplied to the first layer.
14. A method of making a laminated sheet material comprising:-

M 18.01.00

- (a) procuring an air permeable first layer;
- (b) laminating to one face of the first layer, an air-impermeable second layer comprising a material of uniform thickness;
- (c) laminating to the face of the first layer opposite to the face carrying the second layer, an air-impermeable third layer of uniform thickness; and
- (d) forming a set of perforations through the second layer at a selected part thereof.

10 15. A method according to Claim 14 wherein the first layer is a textile fabric.

15 16. A method according to either one of Claims 14 and 15 wherein the second layer is a polyurethane composition.

17. A method according to any one of Claims 14 to 16 wherein the perforations are made by perforating the second layer after the first and second layers have been laminated to one another.

20 18. A method according to any one of Claims 14 to 17 wherein the perforations in a first region of the selected part are of different dimensions from those in a second region.

25 19. A method according to any one of Claims 14 to 18 wherein the second layer is laminated with the first layer by transfer-coating.

20. A method according to any one of Claims 14 to 19 wherein the third layer is laminated with the first layer by transfer-coating.

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